

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A knee-protecting airbag device located below a steering column in front of a driver and, at a lower side of a key cylinder  
5 into which an ignition key with accessories is inserted, the airbag device comprising:

a housing located below the steering column for housing an airbag;

an airbag folded and housed in the housing in undeployed  
10 condition, and upon inflow of inflation gas, the airbag protruding rearward from the housing to deploy upward for protecting knees of the driver; the airbag including:

a cover portion located in an upper edge of the airbag as completely deployed, for covering vehicle's  
15 rearward of an area proximate to the key cylinder; and a flexible reinforcing cloth located in a part of the cover portion to contact the key accessories as the key is inserted into the key cylinder.

20 2. The knee-protecting airbag device according to Claim 1, wherein:

the airbag as completely deployed forms a substantially plate shape including a column side wall located toward the steering column and a driver's side wall located toward the  
25 driver; and

the reinforcing cloth is applied to an airbag part to

contact the key accessories, both in the column side wall and the driver's side wall.

3. The knee-protecting airbag device according to Claim 2,  
5 wherein the reinforcing cloth is constituted by a single piece of cloth, and located continuously in the column side wall and the driver's side wall.

4. The knee-protecting airbag device according to Claim 1,  
10 wherein:

the airbag as completely deployed forms a substantially plate shape including a column side wall located toward the steering column and a driver's side wall located toward the driver;

15 the airbag is manufactured by being stitched up at outer edges of the column side wall and the driver's side wall; and

the reinforcing cloth is stitched up together when the outer edges of the column side wall and the driver's side wall are stitched up, and the reinforcing cloth is applied to the  
20 airbag only by the stitching to the outer edges of the column side wall and the driver's side wall.

5. The knee-protecting airbag device according to Claim 4, wherein:

25 the reinforcing cloth is constituted by a single piece of cloth; and

the reinforcing cloth is located continuously in the column side wall and the driver's side wall in an airbag part to contact the key accessories.

5 6. The knee-protecting airbag device according to Claim 1, wherein:

the airbag includes an airbag body and the reinforcing cloth; and

10 the reinforcing cloth is located on the outer surface of the airbag body.

7. The knee-protecting airbag device according to Claim 1, wherein:

15 the airbag includes an airbag body and the reinforcing cloth; and

the reinforcing cloth is located on the inner surface of the airbag body.